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MONTANA LABOR MARKET

Monthly Review of EMPLOYMENT OUTLOOK, LABOR SUPPLY, LABOR DEMAND, CURRENT EMPLOYMENT

MONTANA STATE EMPLOYMENT SERVICE Division of Unemployment Compensation Commission of Montana

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FL. 226



JANUARY, 1962

164,200 Wage Earners On December Payrolls

A seasonal decline of 3,100 workers in non-farm employment from November to December was less than 2 percent of total wage earner's on Montana's industrial payrolls according to estimates compiled by the Commission in cooperation with the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics. Over-the-year decline from December 1960 to December 1961 was a scant 300 compared to a drop of 3,000 for the same period from 1959 to 1960. The November to December decline was chiefly seasonal. Employment losses were mainly in those industry groups normally affected by weather conditions. Construction bore the brunt of these winter layoffs. Employment declines were also noted in logging and lumbering, oil fields, and other outdoor endeavors to a lesser extent. Most of these idled workers were on a stand-by basis waiting to return to their jobs as soon as the weather improves.

Same Paterns Prevail

The December labor market picture was much the same as any other year. Layoffs after the holiday season separated into two forces. The first resulted from snow and cold weather causing force reductions in logging, construction, oil fields, railroads, irrigation and forest services, among others. The second was seasonal in nature but completely divorced from weather conditions as in sugar beet refining, the Christmas tree harvest, and a general let down in trade and service industries after the completion of the holiday buying season.

Construction Total Down 2,500

Declines in December employment were most marked in the construction industry. December employment in this group was pegged at 11,100 compared with 13,600 in

THINGS ARE LOOKING UP FOR 1962 WITH ENCOURAGING SIGNS IN VIEW

As the new year began, most of the Montana geography was in the grip of snow and cold. The heavy snow cover was a welcome sight to the drought parched farm areas of last spring and summer. Although it temporarily stalled some non-farm activity, it could not hide the fact that some encouraging developments on Montana's economic scene were in sight and would generate into action with the start of the spring agenda. Construction employment is sure to set records the next season. Multi-million dollar projects, including Yellowtail and Clark Canyon Dams; record highway construction projects; the cement plant near Helena; the copper concentrating plant at Butte; and a variety of commercial, educational, and residential building projects will provide employment for thousands of additional workers. The possibility of construction of a steel mill at Anaconda is still in the talking stage but has not yet been ruled out. More expansion in the lumber industry awaits the start of spring weather. A record year is predicted for the tourist industry with more expansion in trade and service establishments. Metal mining employment, although it still has some way to go to recover losses of the 1957-58 downturn, exhibits some encouraging signs. Prospects on Montana's farm front look considerably brighter than last year at this time. Tie them all together and they add up to what could be a record year of employment in Montana.

November. The bulk of this decline occurred in construction other than building and chiefly affected heavy duty equipment operators, truck drivers, etc. Most major highway projects were either suspended until warmer weather or were working only skeleton crews. Rock crushing operations continued in some areas in preparation for resumption of the closed projects. Some employment declines were also evident at missile site bases, at the Yellowtail Dam project, and at the Clark Canyon Dam site in the Dillon area. Despite this November to December decline, construction employment was still a substantial 1,800 over December of last year.

Other Declines More Moderate

Manufacturing industries used 900 fewer workers in December. A drop of 800 was recorded in production of durable goods, and a minus 100 in non-durable segments. Of the total drop, 600 related to lumber manufacturing, 200 to fabricated metal prod-

ucts, and 100 to food processing. Service industries, transportation and utilities, and governmental employment were each shy 100 workers from November payrolls. All of the drop in the transportation and utilities group was in railroad employment. Finance, insurance, and real estate establishments, with 6,700 workers, stayed even with November payrolls.

Two Record Gains

Holiday biring in main street establishments accounted for an increase of 500 in trade during December. The increase from November to December, 1960, was 1,100 wage earners. The lower total this year chiefly reflects improved merchandising methods and other economies adopted by larger retail stores thereby eliminating the need for extra workers. Employment in the mining group advanced by 100 with all of the gain in petroleum and natural gas production. Metal and coal mining payrolls remained the same as the November totals.

LABOR TURNOVER RATES IN MANUFACTURING AND MINING INDUSTRIES (per 100 employees)

	ACCESSION RATE							SEPARATION RATE								
INDUSTRY	Total			N	New Hire			Total			Quit			Layoff		
	1) Nov 1961	2)Oct 1961	Nov. 1960	Nov. 1961	Oct. 1961	Nov. 1960	Nov. 1961	Oct. 1961	Nov. 1960	Nov. 1961	Oct. 1961	Nov. 1960	Nov. 1961	Oct. 1961	Nov. 1960	
3) All Manufacturing Durable Goods Primary Metal	2.8 4.5	4.2 4.8 8.6 3.1	1.5 1.7 1.1 1.2	1.4 1.7 1.1 .9	2.8 2.9 2.8 2.5	1.3 1.3 .8 1.2	5.2 5.7 6.0 4.2	5.1 5.8 6.9 3.7	3.4 3.9 3.2 2.6	1.0 1.1 .6 .7	1.3 1.6 1.1 .8	1.1 1.0 .4 1.5	3.0 2.9 2.2 3.3	2.1 2.1 .1 2.2	1.2 1.5 .6 .6	
All Mining Metal Mining	3.7 4.0	6.1 7.6	2.5 2.9	1.2 (1.9 1.2	1.4 1.0	4.8 5.5	5.2 4.1	2.6 2.9	2.4 3.4	1.5 1.3	1.0	1.4 .7	2.3	.5	

Preliminary rates based on all data available at publication time.
 Figures previously revised on more complete returns.
 Excludes sugar and canning industries.

Total separations include discharges and miscellaneous separations.

Along the Hiring Line—Field Summary Jan. 1

ANACONDA, Deer Lodge, Philipsburg—(445 jobseekers, 94 new, 279 men, 166 women). Area employment patterns fairly stable after seasonal declines. About 20 smeltermen recalled to employment after earlier layoffs. New Philipsburg lumber mill hired seven workers. Farm labor demand practically non-existent. Potato sorting to get underway early January.

BILLINGS, Columbus, Hardin, Hysham, Red Lodge, Roundup—(3,032 jobseekers, 617 new, 2,235 men, 797 women). Weather-caused setbacks in construction caused sharp employment declines during December with only limited activity in both residential and commercial construction. Yellowtail Dam construction employment total remained unchanged. Trade and service employment down from year ago with some sales clerks on short work weeks. Hardin sugar beet campaign ended December 16, idling 150; operations at Billings refinery expected to end mid-January. Employment dmand in agriculture chiefly for livestock feeders and general maintenance and repair work.

BOZEMAN, Ennis, Three Forks, Trident—(659 jobseekers, 223 new, 462 men, 197 women). Activity in construction, lumbering, and logging slowed somewhat by bad weather but continued after intermittent interruptions. Cement plant still operating at half capacity. Three Forks talc processing plant operating steadily with 15 workers. Farm labor demand slow.

BUTTE, Virginia City, Whitehall—(1,412 jobseekers, 212 new, 970 men, 442 women). Metal mining picture unchanged from past few months with a few callbacks but no new hires. Moderate increase in employment forecast during next three months. December hiring consisted chiefly of sales clerks and some unskilled workers. Meat packing plant reduced its force by 25 workers.

CUT BANK—(323 jobseekers, 91 new, 296 men, 27 women). December hiring mainly for main street trade and service establishments with some upswing in construction and oil fields as weather allowed. Farm hiring at bare minimum and only as necessary for livestock feeding and general maintenance.

DILLON—(209 jobseekers, 63 new, 176 men, 33 women). Area economy weakened by closure of mine and mill idling 50 workers and resulting in a loss of a \$95,000 monthly payroll. Most major building and construction projects on intermittent basis depending on weather. Trade and service volume at winter low.

LABOR MARKET INDICATORS

Employment—	Dec.	Nov.	Dec.	Dec. Avg.
	1961	1961	1960	1952-61
Industrial Employment New Job Applicants Job Applicants, End of Month	164,200 3,815 16,568	167,300 4,050 14,059	164,500 4,666	161,200 4,127
Insured Unemployment, Week of	Jan. 5 1962	Dec. 8	17,577 Jan. 6 1961	13,161 Avg. 1st Jan. Wk. 1958-62
New and Renewal Claims Unemployed Weeks Filed Total Unemployment Claims	1,991	1,745	3,883	2,850
	9,792	7,792	12,543	11,553
	11,783	9,537	16,426	14,402

GLASGOW, Fort Peck, Malta, Opheim, —(725 jobseekers, 173 new, 494 men, 231 women). Cold weather caused heavy layoffs in construction and other outside work during December. Good holiday trade volume provided temporary jobs for additional sales people. Farm picture dismal after last year's drought.

GLENDIVE, Circle, Wibaux—(266 jobseekers, 58 new, 194 men, 72 women). Most new labor market activity during December centered in oil fields and trucking. Construction curbed sharply by cold weather. Holiday trade volume good with mostly former employees recalled for extra work.

GREAT FALLS, Choteau, Fort Benton, Stanford—(1,997 jobseekers, 522 new, 1,435 men, 562 women). All construction employment including missile site projects cut to minimum during the past 30 days. Hiring of clerical and service industry workers dominated the December labor market. Sixty short-time hires noted at postoffice and delivery firms during holiday rush. Lengthy strike between clerks' union and some large department stores settled causing layoffs of other workers as former workers returned to their old jobs. Large labor supply current in most occupations.

HAMILTON, Stevensville—(436 jobseekers, 69 new, 318 men, 118 women). Logging and lumber picture considerably brighter than year ago despite snow and cold weather. Some shortages of experienced logging crews evident. Holiday hiring in trade circles did not reach expectations.

HAVRE, Chinook, Harlem—(504 jobseekers, 107 new, 430 men, 74 women). Effect of last year's poor crops, reduced construction activity, and cutbacks in railroad employment beginning to show in area economy. Declines evident in both industry and farm. No employment upswing expected until April.

HELENA, Bonlder, Garrison, Townsend, White Sulphur Springs—(840 jobseekers, 269 new, 633 men, 207 women). December labor supply inflated by college students seeking temporary work during holidays. Demand for clerical and sales workers

headed the December job list. Employment in area logging and lumbering showed some weather-caused declines. Work on several major building projects continues with limited crews as weather allows.

KALISPELL, Columbia Falls, Eureka, Libby, Whitefish—(1,612 jobseekers, 216 new, 1,316 men, 296 women). Weather-caused layoffs in lumbering and construction largely responsible for most new unemployment. Demand for trade and service workers diminishing with exception of some hiring at ski and winter resorts. Furlough of more lumber and trade workers expected next 30 days. Potato growers holding crops in storage awaiting better prices.

LEWISTOWN, Harlowton, Ryegate, Winnett—(411 jobseekers, 95 new, 378 men, 33 women). Hiring in industry and farm below last year's levels. Reduced activity in construction and outside work caused most new unemployment. Closure of brick yard idled 18 workers. Trade and service volume at fairly good levels.

LIVINGSTON, Big Timber—(454 jobseekers, 61 new, 339 men, 115 women). Job hires 24% below last year largely as a result of reduced construction activity. Interstate highway section more than half done with work now suspended until early spring. Logging and lumbering keeps at good pace with some shortages of fallers. Some hiring of railroad shop workers continues.

MILES CITY, Baker, Ekalaka, Broadus, Jordan, Terry—(365 jobscekers, 92 new, 330 men, 35 women).. Main street business holding up well despite reduced farm income. Worker demand in trade and service channels below normal for this time of the year. Construction and other outdoor work reduced appreciably by weather conditions.

MISSOULA, Drummond, Arlee, Superior—(1,185 jobseekers, 549 new, 745 men, 440 women). Area employment higher than last year with most of the gain in manufacturing industries. Logging and lumber crews working steadily with only temporary interruptions. Highway bridge and building construction slowed by weather. Trade and

NINE YEARS OF MONTANA INDUSTRIAL EMPLOYMENT TOTALS, BY MONTHS (in Thousands)*

	Jan.	Feb.	March	April	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	Aver.
1953	147.1	145.9	147.9	151.5	155.2	161.0	162.2	164.1	163.2	162.2	159.9	157.9	156.5
1954	148.8	147.6	149.4	153.4	158.0	164.1	166.6	167.8	157.1	156.1	160.3	158.0	157.2
1955	150.6	149.0	149.6	155.6	160.7	169.2	170.6	172.9	171.7	168.3	164.7	162.7	162.1
1956	156.6	154.4	156.3	163.0	169.3	177.4	177.4	179.8	177.2	174.6	170.4	166.7	168.6
1957	156.8	155.0	156.8	161.3	166.0	172.0	174.2	174.2	170.8	167.4	163.2	159.9	164.8
1958	153.1	150.3	150.5	156.4	162.4	167.1	170.2	172.2	170.0	168.8	165.8	162.4	162.4
1959	155.3	153.2	155.9	162.2	167.5	174.0	177.5	179.2	169.9	165.6	161.5	159.4	165.1
1960	152.7	152.5	156.1	163.5	168.4	175.8	176.9	177.7	174.8	171.6	167.5	164.5	166.7
1961	156.9	154.8	156.0	159.5	164.6	172.9	175.2	176.6	174.6	171.6	167.3	164.2**	166.2

^{*} Estimates revised on the basis of more complete and accurate figures for industry segments not covered under the Unemployment Insurance Program. **Preliminary Estimate.

Along the Hiring Line— Field Summary Jan. 1

service employment up with the opening of new shopping plaza and retirement home. Farm hiring failed to reach last year's level.

POLSON—(358 jobseekers, 69 new, 294 men, 64 women). Most outdoor activities stalled by heavy snow with construction chiefly affected. Lumber mills operated at normal levels with only a few layoffs in logging. Employment at trade and service establishments at seasonal levels.

SHELBY—(378 jobseekers, 65 new, 297 men, 81 women). Labor market patterns normal for this time of the year with shut down of most outdoor projects. Future con-struction agenda includes new postoffice, livestock sales office and barn, and mor-tuary. Brisk business noted in trade and service establishments during holidays.

SIDNEY—(193 jobseekers, 51 new, 170 men, 23 women). Main street business starting to adjust to winter levels after good holiday volume. No activities in sight on the construction scene. Rock crushing opera-tions continuing to meet spring road con-struction demands. Sugar beet refining cam-paign completed Jan. 15. Farm labor demand negligible.

THOMPSON FALLS, Hot Springs—(304 jobseekers, 75 new, 266 men, 38 women). Heavy snow fails during December shut down much outside work. Most logging concerns curtailed or shut down at some time during the month. Major mills had sufficient log stockpiles to operate for a month. Some upswing in railroad employment for snow and ice clearance.

WOLF POINT, Plentywood, Scobey— (460 jobseekers, 44 new, 376 men, 84 women). Light upswing noted in oil fields following successful well near the Tule Creek field. Three drilling rigs currently active along with three oil exploration crews. Usual seasonal declines exist in trade and service establishments including cafes and implement firms.

Statewide employment estimates revised on the basis of more complete reports. Industry detail for the period January 1960, to date, will be supplied in a future supplement to this publication.

- (1) Estimates include all full and part-time wage and salary workers who worked or received pay during the pay period ending nearest the 15th of the month. Proprietors, firm members, personnel of the armed forces, domestic servants, and self-employed persons are excluded.
- (2) Preliminary estimates based on return from samples of 879 selected Montana establishments.
- (3) Figures previously released have been revised on return from 1,378 such establish-

- ments.

 (4) Includes fabricated metal products, machinery except electrical, furniture, stone and clay products.

 (5) Includes apparel, chemicals, and miscellaneous manufacturing products.

 (6) Includes commercial trade schools, auto repair services and garages, miscellaneous repair services and hand trades, motion pictures, amusements and recreation, medical and health, law offices and professional services, non-profit membership organizations and businesses not otherwise classified.

 (7) Same as (6) above. Also includes finance
- Same as (6) above. Also includes finance, real estate and mining.
- (8) Same as (6) above. Also includes mining.

ESTIMATED EMPLOYMENT IN NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES IN MONTANA (1)

(Compiled in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics)

(complied in co-operation with office	4	PLOYME		Net Change			
INDUSTRY	Dec. 1961 (2)	Nov. 1961 (3)	Dac. 1960	Nov. '61 to Dec. '61	to		
NON-AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRIES	164,200	167,300	164,500	3,100	300		
Manufacturing	20,200	21,100	20,000	900	200		
Durable goods	12,100	12,900	12,400	- 800	300		
Lumber and timber products Primary metals Other (4)	6,900 3,600 1,600	3,600	3,800	00	_ 200		
Nondurable goods	8,100	8,200	7,600	100	500		
Food and kindred products	4,700 1,700 900 800	1,700 900	1,700 900	00	00		
Mining Metal mining Coal, quarrying and nonmetallic Petroleum-natural gas production	6,800 4,100 800 1,900	4,100 800	4,900 700	00	1 2 2 2		
Contract Construction Contractors, building construction Contractors, other than building Contractors, special trade	11,100 2,700 4,700 3,700	3,200 6,400	3,500 2,100	1,700	2,600		
Transportation and utilities	17,800 8,100 3,800 5,900	8,200 3,800	8,500 3,900	— 100 00			
Trade Wholesale trade Retail trade General merchandise and apparel Food stores Eating and drinking establishments Automotive and filling stations Retail trade not elsewhere classified	8,400 31,100 6,500	8,400 30,600 5,700 5,000 7,400 5,800 6,700	8,600 32,400 7,000 5,200 7,200 6,400 6,600	800 800 00 200 100	700		
Finance, insurance and real estate	22,700		1	Ï	ì		
Services and miscellaneous		2,100	2,100	0	00		
Government : Federal : State and local :	39,400 10,200 29,200	10,200	9,800	0	0 400		
Great Falls Area (Cascade County)	2,100 5,500 4,600	3,400 3,600 2,100 5,300 4,600	3,000 2,100 2,100 5,600 4,500		$egin{pmatrix} 400 & 400 & 900 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0 & 0$		
Billings Area (Yellowstone County) Manufacturing Contract construction Transportation and utilities Trade, wholesale and retail Finance, Insurance, Real Estate Services and miscellaneous (8) Government	3,400 1,200 2,700 7,700 1,500 3,700	3,500 1,300 2,800 7,300 1,500 3,700	3,300 1,500 2,900 7,700 1,400 4,000	10 - 10 - 10 - 10 40 0	$ \begin{array}{c cccc} 0 & 100 \\ 0 & 300 \\ 0 & 200 \end{array} $		

Employment estimates for the Billings area (Yellowstone County) are introduced in this issue. Complete series January 1958 to date will be presented in a future supplement to this publication.

COMPARISON OF BASIC LABOR MARKET ACTIVITIES IN DEC. 1961 AND DEC. 1960

Employment	Nev	w Job	Applica	ants	Jo	Jobseekers in File Job Placement						UIC	laims*						
Service	Dec.	1961	Dec.	1960	Dec.	1961	Dec.	1960	Dec. 1961				Dec. 1960				Wk. 1-5		
Office	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	Ind.	Ag.	Tot.	Vet.	1962	1961	
Anaconda Billings Rozeman Butte Cut Bank Dillon Glasgow Glendive Great Falls Hamilton Havre Helena Kalispell Lewistown Livingston Miles City Missoula Polson Shelby Sidney Thomp. Falls Wolf Point	617 223 212 91 63 173 58 522 69 107 269 216 92 549	144 147 422 633 19 18 600 116 125 20 25 88 54 428 9 18 101 21 17 11 25 3	222 662 168 453 77 74 142 69 619 72 158 255 300 123 60 132 483 187 165 91 47	21 182 44 103 20 17 42 15 184 9 37 48 77 34 11 28 133 56 6 33 19 16 26	445 3,032 659 1,412 323 209 725 266 1,997 436 504 840 1,612 411 454 365 1,185 358 378 193 304 460	66 580 163 376 58 64 186 58 571 93 155 252 436 111 116 127 314 105 110 34 92 101	281 2,950 535 1,678 280 242 709 136 2,134 527 689 827 1,868 446 561 418 1,271 449 490 225 278 583	60 606 126 377 99 64 212 31 126 188 255 514 135 115 120 270 153 137 51 85 139	27 373 105 134 41 28 66 42 321 28 67 112 110 48 35 35 191 10 46 31 13 13	3 104 15 5 39 15 3 35 4 11 6 40 40 4 2 2 3 12	30 477 120 141 46 67 81 45 356 32 78 118 110 67 41 75 195 195 195 12 49 43 14	10 178 32 22 13 27 14 17 119 9 29 38 23 40 6 6 21 13	23 414 124 138 38 27 79 45 329 17 79 109 110 47 46 41 111 30 57 24 47 19	101 12 12 2 433 7 8 8 12 11 1 21 21 42 42 42 7 7	23 515 136 150 40 70 86 53 350 25 91 120 111 120 111 18 83 118 32 81 31 47 23	7 228 35 46 10 25 32 19 106 11 41 38 25 20 14 11 53 12 29 14	415 850	2,524 419 1,341 256 206 782 290 1,794 467 603 764 1,958 317 568 507 1,290 494 389 232 328	
TOTALS	3,815	924	4,666	1,155	16,568	4,168	17,577	4,504	1,876	337	2,213	684	1,954	347	2,301	805	11,783	16,426	

^{*}Includes 508 claims of the Fed. UC program 615 same a year ago. 1,675 claims under the Fed. TEC program not included

AVERAGE HOURS AND EARNINGS IN SELECTED MONTANA INDUSTRIES

(Produced in co-operation with United States Bureau of Labor Statistics) (Hours and earnings data exclude administrative and salaried personnel)

	Average	Weekly	Earnings	Averag	ge Weekly	Hours	Average Hourly Earnings			
INDUSTRY	Dec.(1) 1961	Nov.(2) 1961	Dec. 1960	Dec.(1) 1961	Nov.(2) 1961	Dec. 1960	Dec.(1) 1961	Nov.(2) 1961	Dec. 1960	
All Manufacturing	\$ 95.37	\$ 93.99	\$ 98.65	38.3	37.9	40.1	2.49	2.48	2.46	
Durable goods	88.31 103.86	87.40 103.86	97.02 98.95	35.9 40.1	35.1 40.1	39.6 39.9	2.46 2.59	2.49 2.59	2.45 2.48	
Nondurable goodsFood and kindred products	108.61 92.94	106.52 91.46	100.86 90.41	43.1 44.9	43.3 45.5	41.0 44.1	2.52 2.07	2.46 2.01	2.46 2.05	
All Mining	108.27	107.74	106.39	40.4	40.2	40.3	2.68	2.68	2.64	
Metal mining	105.07	105.07	105.07	39.5	39.5	39.5	2.66	2.66	2.66	
Transportation and Utilities (except Rys.)	102.70	105.19	99.42							
Transportation (except railroads)	110.56 97.57	114.65	 111.78 92.34	39.5	40.1	38.8	2.47	2.47	2.38	

(1) Preliminary estimates. (2) Figures previously released have been revised on more complete returns,

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